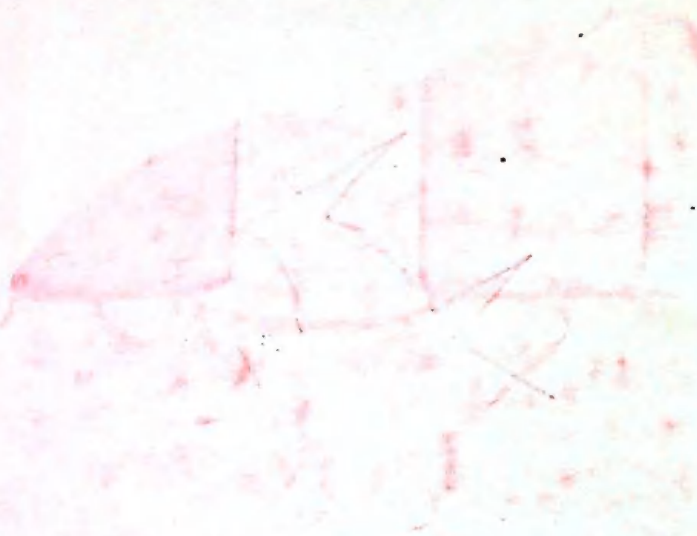
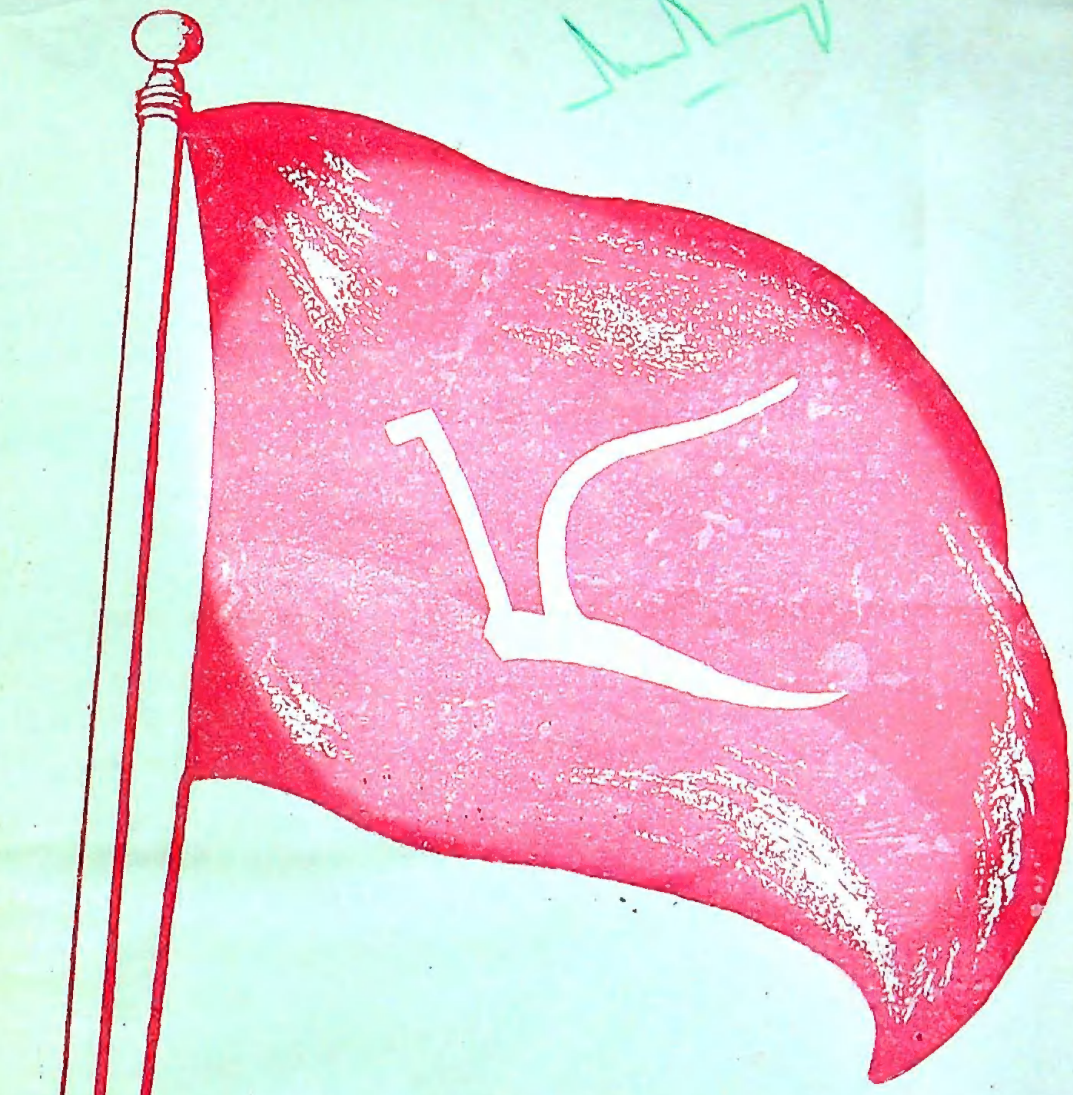
Through Blood, Sweat & Tears





THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS

(An account of the Activities of the Emergency Administration of Jammu and Kashmir from October 31, 1947 to March 5, 1948).

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DEDICATED

TO

M. MAQBOOL SHERWANI

WHO

fell a martyr

FOR

Kashmir & India.

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Sher-e-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdulla, on his way to the Secretariat to take over as Head of the Emergency Administration in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sher-i-Kashmir addressing thousands who collected in the Secretariat premises to cheer him.

Another view of the eager and cheering crowd.

INTRODUCTION.

On the last day of October 1947, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who had led the people of Jammu and Kashmir to revolt against serfdom for over seventeen years, was charged to deal with the emergency that had suddenly arisen in the State. But it was merely giving legal recognition to what was already a fact.

For, four days before there was no Government in Kashmir.

Well-equipped hordes from Pakistan had swooped down on the frontier town of Muzaffarabad and were now knocking at the gates of Srinagar.

The only resistance offered to them had been near Uri at a distance of sixty miles from Srinagar by Brigadier Rajindra Singh and his forty men, who had all fallen in action having run out of ammunition, food and water.

Otherwise everywhere the first to run away had been the officials, custodians of peoples life and property, bureaucrats of the old regime who had with the first impact of the crisis become deserters.

The city of Srinagar had itself been abandoned, the highest in the land, the source of all authority, having escaped to safety at dead of night.

Meanwhile hundreds of refugees were pouring into the city.

The treasury was without cash and there was a run on the banks.

On the 27th the city had no police, no military and no light.

All services had ceased. Transport was at a standstill, petrol supplies had run out to meet the demands of deserters and the raiders were advancing leaving behind them a trail of blood, devastation and fright.

The city will fall. It is all over.

But then the people rose. 20,000 volunteers rushed to the call of Sher-i-Kashmir equipping themselves with whatever arms they could hastily get at.

We shall answer the raiders.

Pakistan cannot enslave us.

" Yeh mulk hamara hai. Is ki hukumat ham karengay."

" Hamlawar khabardar, ham Kashmiri hain tyyar."

answered the Kashmiri who, in that hour of grave peril, rose in a spirit of defiance that was not to be overcome either by force or fraud.

Surely the savage hordes were advancing " in the name of Islam " to liberate their " Muslim brethren " in Kashmir.

But the Kashmiri Muslim under Sher-i-Kashmir's leadership saw through this game, saw through this kid glove on a mailed fist.

" I will not kill my Hindu neighbour because that is no service to Islam."

" I will not accept slavery even though my enslaver may be a Muslim."

" I will preserve this beautiful land for all those who belong to this land."

Srinagar became another Stalingrad.

Hastily-formed Home Guards dug themselves in trenches at half a mile from the city.

If the aggressor enters the city, orders were issued to blow up the bridges on the river.

We shall resist from whichever quarter the aggressor does not reach.

We shall fight with bricks and stones. But we will not surrender. The enemy shall not pass.

Sher-i-Kashmir squads took over the Police Stations.

Night-long vigils over banks and essential institutions were ordered.

A small armoury was built up at the Headquarters with arms and ammunition recovered from fleeing officials and refugees.

All cars and lorries were requisitioned and petrol was pumped out of concealed stocks at Badami Bagh.

A general round-up of fifth-columnists was secured.

Electric light which had snapped off when Mohara fell into the hands of the enemy was provided to important centres from generators obtained from the Palace.

An Emergency Council was set up to take over-all control of the situation.

Sher-i-Kashmir flew to Delhi, where in the name of

people of Kashmir, he secured military assistance from Government of India.

The first Indian troops landed in Srinagar early on the 27th morning.

They went immediately into action. The city was saved.

All the world wondered how this was achieved. A miracle had been worked.

Sher-i-Kashmir's men had saved Kashmir. The first to admit this were the troops themselves for the Indian Army could have not maintained the front without a strong Rear. That Rear was supplied by the men and ideology of Sher-i-Kashmir, by hundreds of Sherwanis and members of "bachau fauj" who rallied to the defence of Kashmir.

II

On assumption of office as Head of the Administration, Sher-i-Kashmir in a statement announced his policy.

He said, "To all our countrymen, in every part of the State, I send greetings on this great and solemn occasion. We are now free, and are determined that this freedom shall endure and grow richer in content and be shared by all the people. In the face of the present grave emergency and while the full picture of freedom is not before them, I invite all friends to drown their differences and discussion of detail, and forge still stronger the sanctions of a whole people's will which must prevail sooner than many of us expect. The power has not come to me but even to the humblest of my countrymen and will be used for all of them so that all exploitation of man by man and injustice and nepotism shall cease.

To the members of the National Conference, who have toiled and suffered these 17 years, I offer thanks and continued comradeship

in the great tasks that lie ahead in building up the New Kashmir of our dreams. I also congratulate the Maharaja Bahadur on his patriotic choice, made not a day too soon, of sharing all power with the people rather than accept the overlordship of another and keep all power to himself. To all those who may have differed from us I say :— "We are brothers of the same Motherland. Come, let us be friends, not enemies. We must not be enemies. Let us forget the past and forgive each other and resolve all differences peacefully like brothers. There is no other way. All these years we fought for freedom which is ours to-day, and not for accession, which shall be determined by the free choice of the people of this country.

But freedom never comes without bringing its own responsibilities, its toils and trials. We shall, every one of us, face them manfully as behoves free men ; and I call upon all my countrymen to help us at this moment of difficulty and do all they can to resist and hurl back the invader who, by his wanton aggression and ruthless acts of arson, murder and loot, has branded himself as a marauder and an enemy of mankind and our homeland.

To all lovers of freedom in India and Pakistan, I send my greetings also. We want their good wishes and help now to enable us to consolidate our freedom, and drive out from our homeland the wanton aggressor who, by his invasion, has created this grave national emergency for us and precipitated the issue of accession by the Maharaja Bahadur so that timely help could come to the State from the Government of India. On behalf of all my colleagues and countrymen I offer my thanks to them for this help and congratulate them on the generous and democratic attitude they have shown, which I wish to make known to all the world and particularly to the people and Government of Pakistan. The stipulation for the final acceptance of the Instrument of Accession is that, when the aggressor is driven out, peace again prevails, and people of our country are really free, they will be given an opportunity to register their choice in the matter of accession or independence, freely and without duress from anybody in or outside the State. Freedom before accession has been both our watchword and policy, and we still stand by it. What form this referendum will take and under what conditions it will be held, can be decided later. For, the course of action adopted by the invaders is aimed at coercing us, which cannot be

accepted since it is dishonourable. This we must and will resist to the last man and to the last ounce of our energy. I, therefore, request Mr. Jinnah to accept the democratic principle of the sovereignty of people of our State, including as it does 78 per cent Muslims, whose free and unhampered choice must count in the matter of final accession.

.....To all those of our countrymen, who are behind the enemy lines to-day and suffer extreme humiliation and misery and to them also that have also lost their kith and kin and whose property has been looted or destroyed — I bring a word of cheer and give a solemn assurance that every inch of our country will be cleared of the marauder, and as soon as conditions permit, all of them will be rehabilitated.

Come, then, to the glorious task of hurling back the marauder, who shall not pass, and to the building up of New Kashmir; and let us all unite in the face of common danger and drown all differences."

III.

To carry on the emergency administration, Sher-i-Kashmir appointed some among his colleagues as Emergency Officers who were to associate themselves with departments of public activity like rehabilitation, supplies, transport, food control, internal security and publicity so as to bring about expedition and efficiency in the administration. He set up a committee to examine and report on the financial position of the State and to suggest measures for balancing the budget. He promulgated ordinances with a view to preventing loot, abduction, arson and crimes of the kind. Those forcibly converted were provided with facilities to return to their faith. Looted property worth thousands of rupees was recovered and returned to the owners. Measures to create mutual goodwill and trust among the different communities in Jammu were adopted. A large number of refugee camps was set up in different parts of the State and numerous refugees were fed and clothed. A considerable

number of them was enabled to return to their homes. A special committee was set up to prepare a scheme for the rehabilitation of those areas that had suffered as a result of the raids. Food situation was stabilized. Black-marketing was checked. Arrangements were made for the import of large quantites of salt, petrol, kerosene oil and other consumer goods. Sales and supplies of *atta* and oil at local mills were regulated. Payments of money by banks were regulated to ensure orderly withdrawals by depositors and safeguard banking structure against damage. Trade agents were appointed in Pathankot and Delhi to help business men in the import and export of merchandise. Specially chartered planes were arranged for the immediate export by air of important merchandise from the State. Ordinances were promulgated to give relief to peasantry and the labourers and several other far-reaching measures were adopted to overcome the emergency with peoples, support.

IV

In the following pages a brief account of the activities of the Emergency Administration is given and although full records were not available, an attempt has been made to touch at least its important achievements during the period.

"Srinagar must prove their Stalingrad" Kashmiris take to arms for the first time during several centuries. Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, is threatened. They start by carrying sticks.

Boys of tender age enlist in "bachau fauj" (Defence Brigade)

Now they carry 303 rifles.

Through Blood, Sweat & Tears

PEACE BRIGADES.

Peace Brigades is no new institution, but is as old as the National Conference itself. The formation of Peace Brigades is provided in the Rules and Regulations of the National Conference published in 1938. But the Defence Rules and the reactionary Kak regime hindered its growth. The Peace Brigades, however, worked invisibly and continuously though not in a regular manner.

When Sher-i-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, was released in September, 1947, after 18 months of imprisonment in connection with the famous 'Quit Kashmir'' movement, he gave a clarion call for raising 15,000 volunteers. Almost simultaneously volunteers were seen moving in towns and cities, working day and night to maintain communal harmony. Shortly afterwards, Pakistanis attacked Kashmir and knocked at the very doors of Srinagar. This was a very critical hour and a serious trial for the Peace Brigades who had begun to assert only a fortnight back. The marauders being busy outside, renegades, traitors and fifth columnists were active in the city. It was at this critical hour that more than 10,000 intrepid volunteers, unmindful of their lives, came forward and taking up the arms of deserted soldiers, guarded all Government institutions, banks, treasury, telephone and telegraph lines, post offices, bridges, provision stores, etc. This was the time when the Maharaja, along with his courtiers and precious jewellery, bolted away from Kashmir.

There was apprehension of breach of peace and the occurrence of communal disturbances at any moment. But due to the continuous and sincere efforts of the Peace Brigades, who worked in bitter and severe cold, not a single communal incident occurred. Peace

Brigades were seen parading the streets during day and night, in heavy snow and frost. What armed police or military could not achieve was achieved by these ill-equipped volunteers. The only effective tool they had in their hands was moral pressure.

The Peace Brigades did much social service also. They kept a vigilant eye on black-marketeers and seized huge stores of necessities of life, which the profiteers had kept in hiding, with a view to making huge profits at the cost of poor people. They risked their lives in saving the property of people in accidental fires. They worked side by side with the sweepers of the Municipal Committee and removed snow from the streets of the city when it had accumulated to a depth of 6 feet and made movement on the roads possible.

When the enemy was pushed back, the Peace Brigades got a breathing space. Mr. Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Hamadani, Chief of the Peace Brigades, toured the whole city and organized the Peace Brigades on a more firm basis. The strength of the volunteers was brought to 15,000. About 2,000 of them including teachers, lawyers, etc., were given military training. For the first time Boys Peace Brigades were organized. Small boy volunteers, with toy guns on their tiny shoulders and singing national songs, were seen parading the streets of the city and towns. The Boys Peace Brigades are not treated as regular members of the Peace Brigades, but their activities are politically very useful. Lt.-Gen. (now Gen.) K. M. Cariappa was once pleased to observe regarding these boy volunteers: "These youngsters will be the sentinels of free and independent Kashmir."

It may be mentioned that the members of the Peace Brigades, their organizers, group commanders and office establishment have all worked honorarily. They have worked not for money, but out of love for their motherland and at the behest of their leader Sher-i-Kashmir. In an address presented to him, the Chief of the Peace Brigades said: "15,000 volunteers are now ready to die at the behest of their selfless leader." Sher-i-Kashmir appreciated the work done by the Peace Brigades and said: "I am convinced that these Peace Brigades will form the vanguard of "New Kashmir" after peace is completely restored in our lovely motherland."

Raiders are attacking the outer gates of Srinagar. Kashmiri youth in action in defence of the city.

Sher-e-Kashmir Suicide Squads sniping near Shalteng (5 miles from Srinagar).

Guerilla bands of Home Guards take positions "They shall not pass"—Home Guadrs accounted for scores of raiders killed and taken prisoner.

HOME GUARDS.

Sher-i-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, after he was sworn in as Head of the Administration in October, 1947, ordered the raising of a 10,000 strong force of Home Guards. Lt.-Col. Ram Lall and Lt.-Col. Adalat Khan were appointed to train the volunteers and give the organization a regular and disciplined shape. Mr. G. M. Sadiq (now Hon'ble Development Minister) was appointed as Officer-in-Charge. The regular training and organization were started somewhere in the first week of November, following a huge rally in the Pratap Park. Immediately detachments were sent to Baramulla, Bandipur, etc., to help in re-establishing administration there.

There were tremendous difficulties which the organizers were called upon to face. There were no uniforms, no equipment and, above all, a very small quantity of arms. This, however, did not discourage the organizers. They went ahead with determination. Volunteers in rags and bare feet went on parades to learn things.

In the third week of October, Sher-i-Kashmir demanded one Company for Jammu, and the volunteers were rushed to that place to maintain peace there. Later, one more Company was sent to Bhadarwah under the command of Lt.-Col. Adalat Khan. Similarly, detachments were sent to Bandipur, Baramulla, etc., to maintain peace after the raiders had been pushed away.

The training of Home Guards was hampered in winter owing to snowfall. The organization was now better equipped with arms, etc., but the weather was a big obstacle.

In January, one detachment was sent to Trehgam, which was threatened from the Titwal side. In February, one Company was sent to Handwara and another to Baramulla-Uri front to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Indian Army. The splendid work that they did

has received recognition from the Indian Army Officers as well. Whatever their degree of training, the men of the Kashmir National Home Guards proved their metal in action and played a very important part in maintaining peace in the Valley.

Women of Kashmir take to arms too. Here they are at parade.

Women with purdahs enlist for training in use of arms.

At a rally in Srinagar,

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE CORPS.

The women of Kashmir in crisis hours of 1947, in November, realised that they were in a bottle-neck of land, and that the first heavy snowfall would shut off their only link with a friendly outside world.

They heard the horror stories of Baramulla where no Hindu and Sikh woman was spared; Muslim women were dishonoured in front of their husbands; and three nuns from the Convent and an English woman recovering from childbed were done to death. The refugees streamed into Srinagar with pitiful stories of women of Muzaffarabad and surrounding villages who had committed suicide in their hundreds to save themselves from rape and abduction. Later, stories trickled through of those who had been saved from death only to be sold with their children in the slave-markets of Gujrat, like cattle at the fair.

It was a bitter challenge. It had to be met; and the Women's Self-Defence Corps was the answer. Women supporters of the National Conference, prominent among them Zenab Begum, young veteran of "Quit Kashmir" days and the sister of Mr. G.M. Sadiq of the Emergency Administration, Miss Mahmud, Principal of the Girls' High School, Srinagar, Miss Uma Razdan, known for her work among the students, Mrs. Mehraj Qureshi, Inspectress of Schools and Mrs. Sumitra Inder Mohan were the pivot of this new movement, which made an immediate and rousing appeal to women of all communities in Srinagar. The Executive Committee was formed of these ladies along with Mrs. Kamla Pandit and later Mrs. Freda Bedi on her arrival in Kashmir.

The President of the Corps was Zenab Begum, who, with her mastery of the Kashmiri language and her history of political work, was the ideal choice. Colonel Sher Jung, who was in charge of the Home Guards, arranged the military instruction of the Corps which was carried through a series of Kashmiri instructors.

Military training was in the first instance given in drilling and parading and in the use of 303 rifles. Although this was a heavy

weapon for the younger girls and the old grandmother, who inspired them with her courage, it was the only immediately available training weapon and the girls became amazingly skilful in using it. Only later were their most expert members promoted to the use of stens and light machine-guns and given some training in the throwing of hand-grenades.

In the winter, they shovelled snow to clear their parade ground themselves. The first shooting competition which was held at the instance of Lt.-General (now Gen.) Cariappa was a great success, the winning girl Shakti Bhatia getting a score of seventeen out of twenty. She won the Cariappa Cup. The Lakhindar Singh cup was won by Sajda Begum.

The other major work of the Corps was the political education of the women who came to them. In addition to lectures in elementary military technique given by Colonel Sher Jung, weekly Saturday meetings were held at which prominent leaders of the National Conference would address the Corps on the political questions of the day and women themselves would speak on the duty and rights of Kashmiri women and the girls would sing patriotic songs they had learnt during the war period. When the Emergency period was over, groups of the Corps went from *hakja* to *halqa* in the city explaining the democratic significance of Kashmir struggle, taking the message of brotherhood and unity of their great leader, the Sher-i-Kashmir.

Allied to the military and political work of the Corps was its essentially womanly work of social service. Fruits, sweets and eggs were distributed by the Corps in the Military Hospital and messages of good cheer were given by them to the valiant defenders of Kashmir's frontiers. Similar service was also rendered in the men's and women's ward of the hospital where poor Kashmiri men and women for the first time realised that there was *Awami Raj* in Kashmir, and that Sher-i-Kashmir was really troubled about the sufferings of the poor. Mrs. Atri, Mrs. Lakhwara and Sajda Begum took a prominent part in this work.

REFUGEE RELIEF.

Throughout the bitter months of the Srinagar winter, the work among the women and children of the refugee camps of Srinagar was carried on by the Women's Self-Defence Corps under the guidance of Mrs. Freda Bedi, who had the special responsibility of organizing refugee relief. Since Mrs. Bedi was also a member of the Central Refugee Committee, all work was done with the help of the Emergency Officer for Refugees, Pandit Kashypabandhuji. Full co-operation with the Emergency machinery increased its effectiveness.

When the members of the Women's Self-Defence Corps went into the refugee camps, the first thing that came to their notice was the pitiable condition of the babies especially those who had ceased to get mother's milk and who were not yet able to eat properly the basic refugee ration. These little ones were often in a wasted condition, and always falling ill. Their sole food was *pichh* (rice water) and the few crumbs of rice they could digest. On a representation being made to Sher-i-Kashmir, the first sum of over Rs. 900 was put into the hands of the Women's Self-Defence Corps and with that the first milk centres were started. The total milk distribution up to the 1st May was for over Rs. 12,000.

The categories of children scheduled to receive milk were (1) children of two years and under; (2) ill children, on recommendation of the doctor; and (3) children slightly over two years limit suffering from obvious weakness and malnutrition. These categories were first given one *pau* of milk per day but as the number of centres increased, the amount had to be cut to two *chattaks* a day.

The categories of women who received milk were (1) women in childbed, who got half a seer of milk per day for one month following delivery; and (2) late pregnancy cases when in a very weak condition. Attempts were also made when possible to arrange sugar and tea for delivery cases, as well as to provide the new born child with a frock and sweater.

In carrying out this work of mercy and goodwill, the women and girls of the Self-Defence Corps showed that the same members of the organization who took up the rifle to safeguard their own honour and that of their sisters, were at the same time willing to work throughout the day, with patience and fortitude to alleviate the miseries of their sisters who had been deprived of hearth and home and had lost husbands and dear ones and whose whole world had crumbled around them. Zenab Begum, President of the Women's Self-Defence Corps, Miss Mahmud, its Secretary, Mrs. Qureshi, Mrs. Sumitra Inder Mohan, Miss Uma Razdan and Mrs. Pandita, all members of the Executive took their share of the grisly work involved in the camp tasks, going every morning through snow and rain storms to keep the service going. The original five centres were increased to twenty-three. A feature of the work was its stress on the Communal Unity programme of the National Conference, and workers of all communities worked in the camps, under the flag of the National Conference, bringing to the sick of mind and body the healing words of love and fellowship and the promise of "New Kashmir."

Whereas work in the camps was painstaking and conscientious, special mention of merit in the milk distribution work must be made of Mrs. Tripat Kour and the Kotwal sisters and, within the city, of Miss Uma Razdan, who ,took on the general organization of the city centres in the early stages of work. Special milk was given to the many wounded children in the Jammu Muslim Camps and Miss Mahmud and Zenab Begum, by their spirit of service, endeared themselves to the many families in their charge.

The value of women volunteers was specially noticeable in cases of childbirth and illness. It would have been a physical impossibility for the small group of refugee doctors to have rendered effective service in the camps among women, if the volunteers of the Women's Self-Defence Corps had not acted as liaison, bringing cases of women illness to the notice of the doctors, arranging women doctors, even from private sources, giving diet to the sick in certain cases and arranging *kangris* and blankets in delivery cases in the winter months. This meant a good deal of work at difficult hours, but no

task was too small or too big. Dr. Talwar gave special help in the early months, especially in the Jammu Muslim Camp and Dr. Jagat Mohini of the Rattan Rani Hospital worked with a sisterly spirit among refugees of all communities, giving them free treatment and often free medicine and diet in her Hospital. Multi-Vitamin tablets, specially donated through Lt. General (now Gen.) Cariappa, were also distributed among the weak. In a letter to Mrs. Bedi, Lt. General (now Gen.) Cariappa congratulated the Women's Self-Defence Corps on its "noble work" and ended with the sentence: "I congratulate you all for what you have done and are doing and on the splendid results achieved."

Apart from the physical aspect of providing creature comforts and milk, the psychological aspect of healing troubled minds and spirits was uppermost in the minds of girls and women workers. It was, therefore, decided that even in the worst winter months when schools are normally closed, it was advisable to open refugee schools in order to rehabilitate children's minds and take them out of the morbid family atmosphere that prevailed following the sufferings of the dispossessed. After a tentative beginning in the Numaish Camp, the work of this type was concentrated in four main schools: the New Kashmir School in Wazir Bagh, the old Hospital School, the Jammu Muslim Camp School and the Chatti-Padshahi School. All schools were a boon and well run, in spite of lack of money and equipment; but special mention must be made of the New Kashmir School, which, with its physical training, co-education, and political classes served nearly four hundred children and inspired them with new ideals. Miss Phool Sahni, who was its Principal, and Mrs. Parimoo, who as Inspectress of Schools arranged its educational side, both did exeellent work.

The clothes distribution work of the Women's Self-Defence Corps was valuable not only because of the clothes made and distributed, but because it was carried on according to the strictest principles of justice. Clothes were given direct for the most part to individual homes when volunteers had personally satisfied themselves that the need was the greatest.

In addition to clothes made by these centres and private collections, clothes donated by the Sikh Regiment and by Brigadier Lakhindar Singh were also distributed.

Clothes were given not only to Srinagar refugees, but also to refugees of Baramulla, Anantnag, Sopore and Badgam villages.

The Sikh Regiment under Col. Harbaksh Singh fasted for two days on the death of Gandhiji and gave the rations they had thus saved to the Women's Self-Defence Corps for distribution among the refugees. These rations included rice and *atta*, soap and vegetables, sugar and tea and *ghee* and were handed out to illness cases and mothers in childbed; and tinned milk contributed was also served to illness cases. The rations were distributed among the Pandit, Muslim and Sikh refugees in all camps, and the spirit in which they had been donated was very highly appreciated. Private contributions of soap were also distributed in the same manner.

INTERNAL SECURITY.

In view of the grave emergency which arose in this State as a result of the sudden and wanton attack of the raiders, it was felt necessary to create an Emergency Office for Internal Security and Law and Order with Hon'ble Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad in charge of it. Mr. D. P. Dhar was appointed as Secretary to this Department. This took place on the 7th November, 1947. But subsequently when internal situation in the Jammu province deteriorated, it necessitated the presence of Bakhshi Sahib there and Hon'ble Kh. G. M. Sadiq took over charge of this Emergency Department. The latter kept the charge of the Department to the date of the formation of the Interim Government in the State. There were other Emergency Offices created side by side with this Emergency Office, but on account of the grave military and political situation which obtained in the country, the Internal Security and Law and Order assumed more importance than other Emergency Offices and found itself confronted with very delicate nature of work from the very outset.

On taking over charge of this Emergency Office the Emergency Officer and the Secretary in-charge thought it their paramount duty to ensure Law and Order and Security within the State territory. The work of the Police Department was re-orientated on proper lines and also speeded up in every possible way. The Police authorities in-charge of the Police organization in the State were made to shed their old outlook and to realise that the work entrusted to their care must unlike the past, be carried out in the most expeditious and efficient manner possible and, above all, with great honesty. The Emergency Office, Law and Order, placed a vital and dynamic programme — a programme of action — before the Police Department and set itself to the task of instilling a new spirit underlying "New Kashmir" and creating a new outlook in the Police personnel —a very necessary pre-requisite for the maintenance of Law and Order in the country. An average Police man was made to realise that it was not merely because of the few chips which he was receiving from the Government in the shape of pay that he had to work hard and

conscientiously but also because he owed something to the country of his birth which, unluckily for us, was passing through very difficult and troublous times in its history.

The Police strength which was reported to have considerably depleted on account of raids and other causes, was to a great extent remedied by the scientific redistribution of Police strength and re-allocation of their duties in the context of the new situation and also by supplementing the Police force with the recruitment of the new additional Police. Many new Police posts were forthwith installed at strategic places which were thought to be exposed to the danger and inroads of the treacherous enemy. Capable and trusted Police officials were chosen from the Police force and posted on duty at such important and strategic places.

This Emergency Office in pursuance of its duties strongly put down the fifth columnists found or suspected to be helping the enemy action or propagating his dangerous ideology. The Police and the Judicial machinery was mobilized against persons found guilty of sabotaging the Governmental activities and promoting panic or lawlessness calculated to do harm to the interests of peace loving populace inhabiting the State. The Intelligence Department of the State — hitherto a slow and infructuous machinery — was made to realise the importance and gravity of the duty allotted to it. It was through the efforts and constant vigilance of this department that it was made impossible for the enemy elements to infiltrate into the State territory.

The Internal Security and Law and Order Department while doing its primary duty of maintaining Law and Order, was also quite alive to the military situation. The Department made all possible arrangements to obtain necessary material from agencies fixed for this purpose and kept on continuously furnishing this information to the concerned military quarters and officers. The latter were apprised of all enemy activity and eventualities likely to arise from the enemy side.

It would not perhaps be out of place to mention here that in

leading and guiding a Military Unit which had been sent to combat the enemy contingent which had suddenly appeared on Kupwara side, the Secretary, Mr. D. P. Dhar, had to endanger his very life. But luckily he had a narrow escape and was saved.

In conclusion, it may be said that this department eminently succeeded in keeping the morale of the local people high, which is so essential to be maintained at times of great stress and strain, trouble and tribulation through which our State was and is still passing. The department banished all unnecessary and unfounded fear and frustration which had unluckily seized the minds of the people. In short, the Department of Law and Order contributed to the strengthening of the Home Front.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES.

With the incursion of the raiders into Kashmir on the 22nd October 1947, a situation unparalleled in the history of the State arose. The Government machinery came to a sudden stand-still and each department was faced with utter chaos. The supply position of the State had already deteriorated to a very great extent due to the economic blockade of the State by Pakistan. To keep the supply position under control was by no means an easy task. The disjointed machinery of the Supply Department had to be placed together and adopted to the new circumstances. Pt. Shyam Lal Saraf (now Hon'ble Minister for Supplies and Local Self Government) was appointed as Emergency Officer for Supplies to deal with this stupendous task.

The Emergency Officer started with almost nothing in stock. Besides normal requirements he had to make available necessities of life to the refugees who after having lost their hearth and home had come to Srinagar in large numbers. Winter was fast approaching and arrangements to procure supplies had to be made at once. The control organization of the time was quite inadequate and groups of the National Conference workers were organized to help the officers of the Supply Department. All stocks with private individuals and firms were taken hold of, located and made available for distribution. Surplus stocks in Jammu, where there was already chaos and confusion, were brought to Kashmir by almost a paralysed transport.

Kashmir was cut off from the outside world but in spite of that the Emergency Administration managed to bring supplies to the Valley. For this purpose, the co-operation of the Indian Military organization was also secured. Goods were transported over snow-blocked Banihal by coolies. The traders of Kashmir, who were afraid to make investments or go beyond the Valley for bringing goods, were tackled successfully and an appreciable amount of trade was kept going on between India and Kashmir. Trade agencies were set up at

Pathankot and Delhi and the export and import trade was thus facilitated and re-organized. Contacts were made with the Indian Union for making available supplies at whatever cost and their transportation by whatever means to the State. Things like salt were imported into Kashmir by aeroplanes involving huge expense but were made available to the public at normal prices.

Besides providing necessities of life to the people, the Emergency Officer had to make arrangements for the procurement of raw material for cottage industries and to provide employment to those who were thrown out of employment for want of raw material. For this purpose, yarn was imported ; and the stocks of yarn that were available in the State were also put to use. A large number of people in different parts of the State were thus provided with employment.

Utmost efforts were made to root out the evil of corruption and to make the people feel that the officials of the Control Department were their servants and not their masters.

The Emergency Officer undertook tours in Jammu and the East Punjab and established contacts there in such a way that the people of the East Punjab unreservedly gave him assurances of their goodwill and promised help and protection to the Kashmiri trader, should he be willing to go there for conducting his normal business. This had a wholesome effect on our traders and they took the opportunity of launching export and import trade between India and the State and sent their representatives outside the State for this purpose. It was thus possible to export lakhs of rupees worth of goods like embroidery, shawls, *namdas*, carpets, wood-carving, papier mache, silver-ware, fresh and dry fruits, etc. In return, we imported necessities of life like tea, sugar, salt, cloth, yarn, kerosene oil, soda bicarb, etc.

Our path was beset with extremely dangerous possibilities and a single wrong step or a little negligence might have cost thousands of lives. The enemy was in the precincts of Srinagar city, but supplies

were being distributed among the people without any dislocation. As the invaders were being pushed back steps were taken to provide necessities of life to the people of the villages recovered from the enemy. What was achieved is nothing short of a miracle.

FOOD CONTROL.

Pt. Jia Lal Kilam, who was appointed Emergency Officer, Food Control, started in right earnest the work of collection of **Mujawaza*. In spite of the fact that there were many hardships to surmount, more than 50 per cent of the *Mujawaza* was collected in a very short time. The Emergency Officer had extensive tours in the Valley and contacted all the local officers and traders, and, with their help, made a substantial collection of †*Shali*. Besides, a Food Procurement Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Emergency Officer. This Committee purchased over 50,000 ‡*Khirwars* of *Shali* on cash payment.

The distribution of *Shali* was carried on satisfactorily. Maize and wheat-flour were also made available to the people of Srinagar. Rationing system was introduced in the suburbs of Srinagar such as Hazratbal, Bren, Theed, Shalimar, Nishat and Baghvanpora for the first time. The Emergency Officer held a number of meetings which were attended by the Halqa Presidents of the National Conference and complaints received from the public were at once attended to and suitably dealt with. The Emergency Officer also called meetings of rice-husking machine owners and settled with them that they should give not less than 9¾ *traks* of rice in return for every *Khirwar* of *Shali*. This was done in pursuance of persistent complaints from the people that the machine owners gave them very poor yield of the *Shali*, and in some cases they were given less than 8 *traks* per *Khirwar* of *Shali*.

The food situation in the city was thus kept well in hand.

**Mujawaza* means portion of revenue which the State collects in kind. *Mujawaza* is used for issue of rations to the city.

†*Shali* means paddy style food of Kashmiris.

‡*Khirwar* is equal to 83 seers or 16 *traks*.

FUEL AND FIREWOOD.

As with other commodities, the situation of firewood also became very difficult with the Qabaili raids. The Forest Department had made arrangements for the procurement of normal requirements of fuel for consumption in the city of Srinagar during winter, and large stocks of the firewood so arranged were lying at out-stations. With the Qabaili raids, there was an influx of a large number of refugees. Their number was about 20,000. The firewood that was lying at out-stations could not be transported to the city, and lignite with which we used to supplement our supplies of firewood in normal times, was not available. Thus the supplies of firewood available were not sufficient even for the normal requirements of the city while over and above our normal requirements we required supplies for about 20,000 refugees, Indian Army, National Militia, Night Pickets of the National Conference Volunteers and Government Offices which previously used to move to Jammu but had to stay in Srinagar that year. Kh. Abdul Ahad Burza was appointed as Emergency Officer to meet the situation.

Advance fellings were made in Haran and Ningli Plantations and other nearer firewood areas to ensure additional supplies within the shortest possible time. The old practice of supplying hard wood to well-to-do persons was discouraged and a new system of reserving hard wood for important purposes such as the Indian Army, Home Guards, etc., was introduced. A Special Tehsildar was appointed to make pony arrangements in Pulwama for transport of firewood of the Rakh Department which had been held up for suitable transport arrangements. Emergency Officers of Ganderbal, Sopore and Baramulla were requested to help the respective royalty contractors in the procurement of transport and labour. The Indian Army Officers were contacted and they extended their co-operation in bringing in requirements of firewood from out-stations such as Ganiwan, Kijpora and Ganderbal in military trucks. The procurement side was thus stabilized to a great extent; and with the co-operation of the people, the firewood situation was eased.

Though the fixed ration of 20 seers per head per month to the civil population was not adequate, the people were apprised of the extraordinary situation of very limited stocks of firewood and the unforeseen extra demand. They thus not only contented themselves with the inadequate quota of firewood in spite of very severe and prolonged winter, but agreed to spare hard wood for military and other purposes. They had, therefore, to carry on with conifer and willow wood. At a later stage, when it became very difficult for the people to carry on with this species of firewood and when the fuel situation had considerably improved, the issue of hard wood fuel mixed with soft wood in the proportion of half and half was allowed from all Government-controlled Depots. Refugees were supplied firewood, mostly conifer, on the recommendation of the Emergency Officer, Refugees and Rehabilitation. The requirements of the National Militia, Home Guards and the Night Pickets were met in equal proportions of hard and soft wood. Government Offices were similarly supplied with equal proportion of hard and soft wood. This systematic and controlled system of firewood distribution enabled the Emergency Administration to bring the situation under control. Fuel in limited quantities was also supplied to Silk, Match and other essential factories to save poor labourers from starvation that was otherwise inevitable on account of closure of these factories. Enhanced quota of fuel was supplied for mosques and other public places to combat severe prolonged frost and winter. Arrangements for procurement and supply of firewood to the Army, refugees and civil population were made in Anantnag, Sopore and Baramulla also.

TRANSPORT.

Kashmir is entirely dependent upon motor transport for its trade and supplies. After 15th August, 1947, Pakistan imposed an economic blockade on Kashmir and stopped supplies of petrol, salt, sugar, tea, kerosene oil, etc. By the time the raiders advanced on the J. V. Road, the entire transport system in the State had been paralysed for want of petrol. People who could afford, had to pay fabulous prices for petrol and transport for escaping to Jammu and the East Punjab. It was under these circumstances that the Emergency Administration took up the entire control of transport in the State.

The Emergency Officer, Kh. Ahsan Ullah, requisitioned all cars and lorries in the State and restricted the supply of petrol to essential services only. Owing to the shortage of services, vehicles and petrol supplies, the entire trade had come to a stand-still, and essential supplies could only trickle through in small quantities from Pathankot. The number of refugees who had collected at Jammu and were trying to escape to the East Punjab was so large that it had become almost impossible for the existing transport to meet the demand, and the Government had to provide transport to the deserving persons on special permits only. Over 30 lorries were supplied for service in connection with the construction of Pathankot-Jammu road ; and overloading of these lorries for short distances was permitted.

Facilities were granted to several transport companies in the East Punjab and U. P. to ply their vehicles in the State. Pressure was also brought to bear on the owners of lorries in the State that had escaped to the East Punjab to return to the State with their vehicles. The Burma Shell Company's depot was re-started at Jammu, and the petrol supply in the State was thus assured. A workshop was opened at Jammu and this encouraged transport companies to open their own workshops. A sale depot was opened

where spare parts were made available.

The transporters of the State extended their active co-operation to cover the emergency period. They offered sacrifices and suffered much loss. Quite a number of their vehicles were destroyed and a number of drivers was killed by enemy action. Roughly speaking, about 25-30 lorries were detailed every day for emergency duties free of charge or on nominal remuneration.

Thanks to the co-operation of the people, the Transport Companies, the drivers and individual owners of the cars, the transport situation was kept well in hand. Necessaries of life continued to be transported to the Valley in spite of very severe and prolonged winter.

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ELECTRICITY.

The Emergency Administration of Electricity, Telegraphs and Telephones and Communications was entrusted to Kh. Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, District President of the National Conference.

As a consequence of the raiders' attack and their advance to the Mohora Power House, supply was cut off from the Mohora Power House at 9-7 P.M., on 24th October, 1947. Engineers were ordered to proceed to Mohora in a military truck to keep up the morale of the staff stationed there and to restart the Power House. Nothing could, however, be done as the place had become the centre of Military action and bullets were being exchanged alround. The Engineers had therefore, to return to Srinagar. Here, in absence of light, the whole city was thrown into utter darkness.

To mitigate the critical situation thus arisen to some extent, the Diesel Engine at the Palaces was started on the 27th of October and power supplied to Emergency Centres and Military Headquarters. Diesel oil required for the Engine was, wherever available, commandeered through the Emergency Officer. But this also could not be a satisfactory arrangement as the diesel oil, besides being very expensive, was not available in sufficient quantity. Steam Road Rollers were, therefore, used next to generate energy and one Roller was brought to run the 10 K. W. Generating set of the Regal Talkies, and power was supplied therefrom at 110 volts to the Emergency and Military centres. Rollers were also put into commission at standard oil mills and the Food Control rice mills and a few other mills to produce oil and rice for civil and Military needs.

In the second week of November, 1947, when Baramulla and Mohora were recaptured, the Chief Engineer with other Engineers, the Mohora Power House staff and skilled labour from Jammu and Srinagar were rushed to Mohora. A survey of the damage caused by the

raiders to the Power House machinery and building was made. The requisite materials for machines and food stuffs for use of workers were obtained without any loss of time through the personal interest shown by the Emergency Officer and repairs were started at once with unabated zeal. One of the machines was started only after 3 days and about 600 K. W. of power was supplied to Srinagar. This infused a new life in the city of Srinagar, and not only alleviated the hardships in obtaining the necessaries of life from rice, flour, oil and other mills, but also served a positive proof about the repulsion of raiders far beyond Mohora. Public radio sets started operating which restored confidence among the people to a great extent. The repair of damages was pushed through day and night under the guidance of the Emergency Officer and was completed within an amazingly short period of 3 weeks; and full supply of electric energy was restored. It will not be out of place to mention here that even some of the eminent Engineers of the Government of India who visited the Power House, when repairs had just been started, could not believe that the repair of damages would take such a short time. The completion of the job within a brief period of 3 weeks only, with the limited resources available, was a great achievement and was recognised by the Hon'ble the Head of the Administration. The difficulties of the Department were not, however, over with the restoration of full supply on the 7th December, 1947. The maintenance of the 6½ miles length of the old wooden flume and running the Power station under war conditions during the 4 winter months, was indeed a difficult job. It may be added here that most of the Electrical Department staff stationed at Mohora were the same officials who had lost everything at the time of raiders' attack on the night of 24th October, 1947.

In Srinagar, 3,000 new temporary connections were set up during the period. The needs of the Military were also promptly attended to and all the quarters occupied by them electrified. Peace Brigades, Home Guards and Halqa Committees were also supplied with Power according to the requisitions received from time to time. All this could be achieved only with full and whole-hearted co-operation of the public.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The State Telegraph and Telephone system was connected to the Indian Posts and Telegraph system to establish communication between the two Governments and different places as also to facilitate the business of Military and Civil Administration. For providing additional Telegraph channels between Jammu-Amritsar, Jammu-Delhi and Jammu-Srinagar, carrier equipments were set up jointly and in collaboration with the Indian Posts and Telegraphs. Wireless communication was established between Jammu Cantonment Radio and Delhi. Telephone communications were set up at various defence Fronts, namely: Baramulla, Uri, Handwara, Kupwara, Haripora, Akhnur, Reasi, Suchetgarh and Bandipur. About a dozen Military exchanges were connected with the State telephone system to facilitate every Military unit to use telephone for emergent purposes. Several Telegraph-cum-Telephone connections were arranged on the Srinagar, Kargil, Leh and Skardu telegraph line to ensure communication of news and messages connected with the movement of the State and the Indian Union Troops.

The Telephone line from Qazigund to Banihal Pass was extended upto Banihal to control Military and Civil wheeled traffic on the Banihal Pass. The old Satwari Cantonment Exchange was replaced by a new Board to make better and more reliable service available for the forces stationed there. Transmitting serials were erected and the Radio station connected with the State Telephone Exchange in connection with the establishment of the Broadcasting Service at Jammu. Telegraph service was maintained for full year at Pahalgam, Ganderbal and Katra by keeping and maintaining seasonal offices at these places beyond their usual dates after Assuj last. Serious damages caused to the line between Srinagar, Uri, Handwara, Gulmarg, and Telegraph offices of Sopore and Handwara were restored.

About 106 Emergency, Civil and Military telephone connections were made available and arranged at a short notice both at Jammu and in Srinagar.

Above all, the local Telegraph and Telephone lines in the State were maintained and damages repaired expeditiously in spite of severe inclemencies of weather and unprecedentedly heavy and continued snow-fall.

AID TO REFUGEES.

With the division of India into the dominions of India and Pakistan, there was an influx of men, women and children refugees from one dominion to the other. Kashmir also gave shelter to thousands of refugees, and the Kashmiris did what little they could to help their afflicted brethren from across the State borders. The problem did not at the moment appear as a pressing one to us, who lived in perfect harmony when the rest of India was ablaze with communal frenzy. But alas, we were taken unawares, when on the 22nd of October, 1947 Muzaffarabad was over-run by raiders. In only a few days more, Baramulla also fell to raiders and Srinagar saw rushing to its shelter bereaved and distressed persons, who had lost all at the hands of the barbarous raiders. Consequently, the problem of refugees became stupendous, while everything for the people of the city was in chaos and confusion.

Immediately after taking over as Head of the Administration, Sher-i-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdulla, created a Central Refugee Committee of eight to meet the emergency. Camps for Muslims and non-Muslims were opened in Baramulla, Sopore, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Badgam, and a number of sub-committees was formed to look after their needs. The numerical strength of the refugees in all the camps at one time was over 42,000.

In face of the winter season, the most uphill task before the Refugee Organization was the housing of refugees. All available buildings, both Government and private, were requisitioned for the purpose and placed at the disposal of the Emergency Officer, Refugees.

After the refugees were housed, the problem was of their feeding and clothing. Government reserves in the granaries of the Food Control Department were opened forthwith to meet their immediate needs. Firewood was supplied to them at the rate of 20 seers per capita per month free of cost. Rs. 30,000 were spent on their clothing

in addition to what was donated by the various philanthropic individuals and institutions, the total of which roughly comes to one lakh of rupees.

The physical well-being of the refugees was entrusted to the Emergency Officer for Health, Dr. Peshin. Medicines were supplied to them free of cost. The pitiable condition of sick and ill fed babies and convalescent women necessitated distribution of milk among them. A fund raised from donations opened by Sher-i-Kashmir was immediately made available to women's organization for the purpose. Milk was supplied to children below two years, sick children and to such children of slightly over two years age as suffered from weakness and malnutrition. Women in childbed were also given milk. The cost of milk distributed up to the 1st May, 1948, came to over Rs. 12,000.

Sanitary Inspectors and conservancy staff looked after the sanitation of the camps.

Electricity and the material required for it was also supplied to the refugees free of cost. Educational centres were opened and instructors, both male and female, were engaged for imparting education to refugee children. The Education Department lent a helping hand in this. The refugee students were admitted to Government colleges and other institutions, and all facilities were afforded to them for prosecution of their studies.

The Emergency Government paid due attention to the social life of the refugees as well. Refugee Committees of the refugees themselves were organized.

Women did not lag behind men in affording relief to the refugees. The Women's Self-Defence Corps, under the able guidance of Mrs. Freda Bedi, Member of the Central Refugee Committee, willingly undertook the task of alleviating the miseries of refugee women and children. Sewing centres were opened for imparting training to refugee

women and children in sewing and knitting and thus affording an opportunity to them to earn their livelihood.

The Indian Army troops also rendered much help to the refugees. The Sikh Regiment under Brigadier Lakhindar Singh donated 1,246 clothes, 159 blankets, 388 yards of cloth, 1,561 socks and 920 books for distribution among the refugees.

The Emergency Administration lost no time in taking up a constructive programme for the resettlement of the refugees in their villages. Three lakhs Cft. of timber were reserved for construction of houses in the Badgam Tehsil. In the Tehsils of Baramulla and Khas, poplar trees numbering 10,700, valuing over a lakh of rupees, were allotted to the villagers. 868 maunds of wheat and 6,600 maunds of *shali* for seed purposes and ploughs and grass for fodder were supplied to the refugees.

MEDICAL AID.

Like other departments, a vacuum was created in the Medical Department also when, with the attack of the raiders, the administration failed in the State. The Badami Bagh Cantonment Hospital was left in more or less a deserted condition although a large number of soldiers had been wounded in the action against raiders. Dr. S. N. Peshin was, therefore, deputed to re-organize the hospital. He found that a major portion of the staff had already been away and that besides Major Sardul Singh there was only one doctor and a few subordinates. Dr. Peshin rushed the staff from the Kashmir National Hospital and the State Hospital to help Major Sardul Singh in his work. The staff worked there till the hospital was taken over by the Indian Military authorities.

With the influx of refugees in Srinagar, there came over 500 refugee men, women and children, who had received serious injuries at the hands of the raiders. They were all admitted into the hospitals at Srinagar. The staff had to work very hard and at top speed. A large number of major operations had to be performed, and in a number of cases bullets were removed from festering wounds. Bone ends in many cases were protruding from wounds teaming with maggots. Thanks to the whole-hearted and efficient work of the doctors, only about a dozen succumbed to the injuries and the rest, including those considered hopeless in the beginning, were all saved.

While the number of in-patients was above 500, the number of those who received treatment as out-patients was many times more than that number.

As the number of refugees in the city was very large, all precautionary measures against the outbreaks of epidemics in refugee camps were taken with the result that no serious epidemic broke out in these camps. There occurred a few cases of typhoid, but the patients were at once isolated and the disease prevented from assuming

an epidemic form. Four cases of typhus were detected, but the disease was soon checked by mass delousing and the free use of DDT. Prompt medical aid was given freely to the refugees. For this purpose, regular centres were opened in the different parts of the city. Besides, medical practitioners visited the refugee patients in their own camps. Vaccinations were also performed in all susceptible cases. Compressed vitamin tablets, received from the Indian Red Cross Society, were distributed among debilitated and devitalized refugee women and children. Milk was also given to them free, in deserving cases.

There occurred sporadic cases of small-pox, cholera, measles, chicken-pox, anthrax and typhus among the refugees in different camps of the Kashmir Province, but the spread of the disease was checked by prompt measures adopted by the medical staff.

Medical relief was provided to the inhabitants of Baramulla soon after the town was recaptured from the enemy. The nature of cases received was injuries and dysentery. The injury cases were of gunshot and sword cuts. The medical staff also went on rounds regularly to the refugee camps in spite of heavy snow and bitter cold, and provided aid to the refugees. A few cases of small-pox and typhus occurred in the refugee camps, but the disease was at once brought under control. Over 50 anti-typhus inoculations were given.

In Sopore also, there was a large number of refugees from adjacent villages and the Handwara Tehsil. The medical staff provided them with medical relief both at the dispensary and in their camps.

In Anantnag, where the number of refugees was about 11,000, medical camps with adequate staff were opened at different centres for their treatment. Besides, the existing dispensaries also afforded medical relief in their respective areas. The number of refugees treated up to the middle of April, 1948, was 8,897.

In the Jammu Province, the refugee problem was more serious than in Kashmir. Communal disturbances in the Punjab had led to an unexpected and unmanageable influx of refugees in Jammu. With the attack of raiders, the city of Jammu was flooded with more refugees from villages and towns on the Pakistan border, Refugees were seen all over the streets, bazaars and the vacant sites along the road side, with the scanty belongings they could carry with them. To provide accommodation for them, all the schools and colleges were closed and a large number of houses commandeered; and no less than 75 camps and sub-camps, excluding unrecognized camps, were established. The Emergency Officer, Public Health, flew to Jammu to provide necessary medical relief to the refugees. He established a number of medical relief centres and a mobile unit, with adequate male and female staff, and provided for proper supervision of these institutions. The staff worked very hard in the treatment of the refugees. Private practitioners also rendered part time aid in certain centres to relieve pressure on the Government staff. Medical relief was afforded to the refugees at Chatta, Nagrota and Palanwalla. The total number of patients treated in five months was 1,27,092.

Medical supplies were promptly arranged from Delhi by air. The Indian Red Cross Society and the Friends Service Unit also supplied a quantity of medicines for the treatment of refugees. A spirit of enthusiasm, realization of duty, dignity of profession and a new out-look were infused in the staff, who showed great interest in the efficient discharge of duty with the result that the diseases among refugees were kept definitely under check, and the percentage of mortality when compared with the past was definitely low.

RED CROSS.

Many of the refugees, who came to the State, had injuries of various descriptions on their bodies, and the need of providing First Aid to such refugees as soon as they arrived was keenly felt. As such, a First Aid Centre was organized. A portion of the National Hospital staff and a few student volunteers, both male and female, formed the first members of this Centre. They rendered First Aid not only to the people in their camps, but also went to the bordering villages in Srinagar. When the work went on increasing, necessity for starting a Red Cross Centre was felt, and a branch of the Indian Red Cross Society was opened with Begum Sher-i-Kashmir as its President. The Society did marvellous work. It not only attended to the civilian sick and the wounded, but also attended to the Indian Military soldiers, who were wounded on the front. Lady Mountbatten, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, General Cariappa and other distinguished visitors to the Red Cross Centre, all praised its work. Classes were also opened in the Red Cross Centre for imparting First Aid training to the people. The Indian Red Cross Society sent medicines, blankets and clothes for the refugees.

Simultaneously with the opening of refugee camps at Srinagar, a vigorous campaign of service was organized by the Department of Education. About one hundred displaced employees of this Department were distributed over 35 centres and each contingent was assisted by scouts drawn from Srinagar Schools, whose work was supervised very closely by Educational Officers. The distress of the refugees, which was beyond doubt very great, was lightened as best as possible. Collection of clothes, foodgrains and fuel was made, and such articles were distributed among the needy. First Aid was administered where immediate medical aid was not available. A First Aid Centre was started on a large scale for the comfort of refugees at Gandhi Park. Hundreds of refugees attended this camp, and necessary aid was rendered to them. At this centre, cooked food was also given to the starving refugees.

As normal conditions again prevailed in most of the disturbed areas in the Kashmir Province, teachers, who were displaced, resumed charge of their duties in *Mufassils* and, with their aid, a campaign of rehabilitation service was re-organized under the able guidance of Mr. Kashypabandhu. These teachers were engaged as supervisors, field surveyors, clerks and compilers of statistical data. Twenty-five of the supervisors were to look after the refugee camps in the city. They were in charge of the distribution of rations and fuel, and were to attend to the procurement of these commodities. A few of these workers were to see that the camps were properly cleaned, drained and washed and that there were proper arrangements for light and water supply in very camp.

A special school for refugee children was opened in the Old Hospital, which functioned under the charge of experienced teachers. About 100 students attended the school.

The surveyors working in the *Mufassils* collected reliable and detailed information supported by facts and figures regarding the rehabilitation of the refugees.

In response to an appeal of the Emergency Officer for Law and Order for raising a Militia of Home Guards, the Department of Education took prompt steps to requisition a contingent for voluntary recruitment as School Home Guards. Accordingly, the schools in Srinagar city deputed 40 students for training in the Central Home Guards Training Camp, which was run under the personal supervision of the Inspector of Schools, Kashmir, and Col. Ram Lall. This contingent was divided into six squads of trainees, and over half a dozen trained physical instructors drawn from various Educational institutions were kept in charge of the various squads. Their work was closely supervised and guided by very capable Military officials. The squads were given thorough training in Marching, Signalling, Tracking, Ambulance, Fire-fighting, Cooking, Tent-pitching, Trench-digging, Defence and Rescue of civil population, Intelligence, Military formation, etc.

Classes were opened for imparting literacy to illiterate members of the National Militia.

Under the inspiring lead of Begum Sher-i-Kashmir, women of the Education Department also jumped into the field of Social and National work in spite of the various impediments which were the out-come of social prejudices. Under her instructions and personal guidance, the Women's Self-Defence Corps was organized as a branch of the All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Women's Committee. The Corps found very willing and active workers in the women of the Education Department. Miss Mahmud, Headmistress, Government Girls' High Schools, as Secretary of the Corps, Mrs. Qureshi, Headmistress, Government Girls' High Schools and Mrs. K. Pandita as members of the Organizing Committee worked untiringly for carrying out the wishes of Begum Sher-i-Kashmir. In addition to a large number of girl students, six teachers of the local school joined the Corps. Most of them have finished their training in musketry and street-fighting craft. One of the teachers, Mrs. Sajida Zamir, was awarded a special cup for the best shot.

In the refugee camps, Mrs. Freda Bedi, in-charge of the camps, utilized services of women teachers and girl students in sewing and

knitting centres in the refugee camps. The daily output was about 49 sweaters and 56 clothes.

In the Women's National Cultural Front under Mrs. Inder Mohan, women and girls participated in dramatic shows, symposiums and other performances.

The necessity of women workers in the National work was thus met by the women of the Education Department. Their work was appreciated by distinguished persons like General Cariappa and the Hon'ble Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad and Major General Lakhindar Singh.

CULTURAL FRONT.

The National Cultural Front was born in the midst of peril, when Pakistan was threatening the very existence of the Kashmiri people. In that dark hour, tens of thousands mustered strong in response to the call of Sher-i-Kashmir, and, among them was a small nucleus of veteran National Conference workers and conscious, progressive writers, actors and artists, who organized themselves under the name of the National Cultural Front. They put themselves to the writing of militant songs, plays, articles and news bulletins and to painting of fighting posters, banners and scenes of battle. They were determined to forge ahead and create such art and literature as would meet the demand of the hour and would enable them to contribute their mite to the defence of the motherland. The National Cultural Front launched a powerful propaganda drive to counteract the underground propaganda conducted by the enemy agents, calculated mainly to spread panic and confusion and to unmask the real face of the enemy, who was adopting dangerous communal subterfuge to create rift in the ranks of the people. The propaganda drive of the National Cultural Front was also directed towards exposing the treacherously selfish aims of black-marketeers who tried to take advantage of the people's distress.

The leaders of the National Conference, who were conscious of the power of art and culture and the valuable service it could render to the cause of freedom, pledged their whole-hearted support to the National Cultural Front and immediately placed a propaganda van at its disposal. Spurred on by this timely encouragement and assistance, the National Cultural Front artists composed poems and set them to militant tunes, drew posters and cartoons and wrote pamphlets and leaflets, printed them in thousands by day and night and rushed off to every nook and corner of the city holding street-corner meetings and exhorting the people to rally round the Flag of the National Conference for driving away the enemy from the sacred soil of Kashmir, and popularised patriotic songs so that every street began to ring with their powerful rhyme. The aeroplanes that flew over the

enemy occupied territory on reconnaissance duty, carried pamphlets of the National Cultural Front specially written for the people of those areas, and dropped them from the air. The National Cultural Front also issued daily news bulletins and leaders' statements to local press in order to acquaint the people with the correct facts of the situation obtaining from day to day. It also kept a vigilant eye on the press lest any misleading reports should get published and thus cause harm to our cause.

This whirlwind propaganda drive launched by the National Cultural Front had a most thorough effect in taking the edge out of the enemy propaganda and in raising the morale of the people. The ranks of the National Cultural Front swelled, and every talented person desiring to get a chance to serve the country volunteered to join it. This enthusiasm of the patriotic young men and women enabled the National Cultural Front to produce a powerful play "*Kashmir Yeh Hai*" almost within a month of its existence.

When normal conditions were restored to an appreciable extent, Qaid-i-Azam, Sher-i-Kashmir, in the capacity of the President of the National Conference, gave recognition to the National Cultural Front and appointed a committee of public opinion to organize it. The National Cultural Front was divided into Art, Drama and Music, Urdu and Kashmiri Literature Sections. At the same time, an Organizing Committee of seven members was formed consisting of the President, the two Secretaries and the four Directors of the different sections, to lay down the policy of the National Cultural Front and to supervise and co-ordinate its activities.

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PART II.

Emergency Administration in Districts.

1. Anantnag.
2. Banihal.
3. Bhadarwah.
4. Baramulla.
5. Uri.

ANANTNAG.

At a time when raiders had over-run nearly two of the three districts of the Kashmir Province, the strategic importance of the Anantnag district can hardly be exaggerated. The Emergency Administration of this district was entrusted to Mr. M. A. Beg (now Hon'ble Revenue Minister). In practice, this district comprised the Tehsils of Anantnag, Kulgam and Pulwama. The area of this district is nearly 2,500 square miles. It comprises 9 towns and 1,380 villages. The total population is 8,51,666 out of which urban population is 2,42,904 and the rural population 6,08,702. The population of Hindus in this district is about 50,000 and of Sikhs about 2,000. There are a few Jains also. Kh. Ghulam Nabi, President, District National Conference, Mir Qasim and Mr. Ghulam Hassan, Anantnag and Kulgam Presidents, did remarkably well in mobilizing the entire National Conference organization for tiding over the difficult times.

Communal killings had blackened the face of the two Punjabs This could have had repercussions even here in view of geographic contiguity. Such killings had also taken place even inside the State wherever the raiders had reached. In this background it was of utmost importance that the confidence of the minorities be restored and strengthened. It was gratifying to witness the members of the minority community enrolling as members of the Peace Brigades and shouting slogans of intercommunal harmony. The only Sikhs that lived in the populous town of Anantnag went about the place in perfect peace and poise.

Posting of voluntary pickets at vulnerable points all over the extensive border-line became necessary. People swarmed willingly for this purpose and offered to guard forest routes, bridges and inhospitable mountain recesses. All this proved highly effective and not a single alien or raider could trickle through this vast border or avail of the eccentric topography of the border-line.

Nearly twelve thousand refugees from Reasi and Udhampur districts in those days of food scarcity reached this district for protection. They had to be housed and fed. The people of Anantnag came forward to house, feed and comfort these destitutes. The general level of the life of the refugees compared favourably with the standard of the common man.

To restore confidence among the people, to prop up the old administration and to guard against the invader, it was essential that the common man be reminded of his responsibility in an hour of national peril. The mental health of the common man was revealed by his response to join the Home Guards and Peace Brigades. Every village and each *halqa* had its band of Home Guards and Peace Brigade which rendered great service.

The raids of the enemy involved considerable damage to food crops. Besides the strain on the food resources on account of influx of refugees, the difficulty was accentuated due to the fact that draught had affected some of the Tehsils of the district and we did not even have the normal crop yield. The procurement of food, therefore, became as vital as the defence of the country. Collection was started in two forms as *Mujawaza* and in the form of food procurement through a separate staff under the Chief Food Procurement Officer. The Emergency Officer, Anantnag, offered to supply 1,50,000 *Khirwars* of *Shali* to supplement the scanty stocks of the city.

Essential commodities and their supply and distribution was a very knotty problem as the supplies were exceedingly inadequate. All the people could not be supplied with the essentials when an instalment arrived. The system of rotation was, therefore, resorted to and all the commodities were distributed through the committees elected by the people in their respective *halqas* on a per capita basis. As a result of this method, black-marketing and hoarding and profiteering were controlled. It was ensured that the controlled prices rates were strictly adhered to.

The problem of supply of necessaries of life was emphasized when the Banihal Cart Road got blocked with very heavy snowfalls and the supplies were completely cut off. For speedy clearance of snow it was necessary that labour in thousands be provided. The workers, therefore, mustered in thousands for snow clearance and, as a result, huge quantities of salt were lifted and the gravity of the situation eased. A very distinctive feature in this connection was that great emphasis was laid on moral persuasion rather than legal action and the patriot in the people in general was roused to combat the invader.

A reference to the Indian Army seems necessary here. The average Kashmiri was moved by the *comaraderi* of the Indian Army. The Army and its officers did not behave like army officers or as soldiers are wont to behave. On the contrary, they conducted themselves as if they were the citizens of Kashmir itself and worked like real patriots whenever an obstacle came in their way, *e. g.*, in regard to snow clearance, lifting of salt, repairing of roads, etc.

BANIHAL.

Mr. Mohammad Amin, who was appointed as Emergency Officer of Banihal, reached there on the 22nd November, 1947. It had the look of a deserted place. Only soldiers on duty were seen here and there. The Emergency Officer went up to Ramban and saw the same condition everywhere. He sent for the people who were hiding themselves in the jungles, arranged meetings in which he spoke on Hindu-Muslim-Sikh unity and organized National Conference Committees. This restored confidence among the people and they returned to their homes gradually and resumed normal life. Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims began to live together like brothers and became determined to drive away the raiders from the State.

The most difficult task before the Emergency Administration in Banihal was to keep the pass open during the severe winter and snow-storms. Troops and supplies had to be passed over the pass. It could not have been possible to achieve this without the co-operation of the people, determined as they were to make the administration headed by Sher-i-Kashmir a success.

All refugees at Banihal were helped and made comfortable. Special attention was paid to transport facilities, escort and medical aid for them and they were supplied with adequate rations. Sufficient rations and money were sent to Ramban also for the refugees there.

Special facilities of board and lodge were provided to the Hajis who were on their way home and comfortable transport arrangements were made for them.

Traders of Banihal were encouraged to restart their trade. Black-marketing was checked and the people were very much satisfied with the measures taken by the Emergency Administration.

Special arrangements were made for distribution of necessaries

of life among the people. Thousands of yards of cloth were also provided to coolies at work in clearing the snow. Salt was distributed among them free of cost.

BHADARWAH.

On receipt of very alarming reports from Bhadarwah and adjoining areas, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, (then Hon'ble Head of the Administration) appointed Col. Adalat Khan as Chief Administrative Officer of Bhadarwah. When the Chief Administrative Officer reached Bhadarwah, he found that there was perfect chaos and lawlessness in the whole *illaqa*. Human life had lost its sanctity and Government authority its prestige. Communal disturbances had wrought havoc. Both communities had suffered heavily in communal disorders that had taken place in the Jammu Province. Thousands of houses had been burnt down and vast quantities of cereals destroyed. Loot, arson and murder was still rampant in some parts and the Tehsil had been split into two distinct parts Security of life and property was denied to Muslims in one part and to Hindus in the other. Safe travelling was not possible and all channels of trade and commercial intercourse had come to a sudden stop The disturbances had resulted in the dislocation of over ten thousand people of Bhadarwah and Kishtwar Tehsils and about three thousand persons of Marmat area of Udhampur Tehsil. Even in places with an outward calm, feelings of retaliation and communal passion were smouldering underneath. The whole of Bhadarwah Tehsil was packed to the fullest capacity with refugees from Chamba State and the Tehsils of Basohli, Ramnagar, Udhampur and Chenani. Both the communities of this area owed allegiance to political organizations of very narrow and communal outlook. Life had become a constant nightmare for peace-loving and law abiding citizens.

The Chief Administrative Officer had thus a very heavy and onerous work before him of restoring peace and normal conditions. He contacted the masses and explained to them the aims and ideals of the new administration. Arrangements were made for the return of dislocated population to their homes. Pickets of Military and National Home Guards were posted at several places to ensure safe travelling and restore confidence in the mind of the public.

Roads and bridges damaged both by the storms of nature and communal frenzy, were repaired. Timber was given free of cost to the sufferers for construction of their houses. Arrangements were made for the import and distribution of commodities essential to the life of the community. Services which were in a miserable plight for not having received their pays for about five months, were paid all their arrears. This restored confidence in all sections of the public. People came forward voluntarily to return the looted property, cattle, ornaments and cash. Abducted girls of both the communities were recovered. Sorrow and suffering chastened the mind of the people and soon Hindus and Muslims were seen embracing each other and sheding tears over their past sufferings. The people rallied round the banner of the National Conference realizing after all that the National Conference alone led them on the right path of unity, brotherhood and freedom.

BARAMULLA.

Raiders were made to repulse from Shalteng on 9th November, 1947. Subsequently within two days Baramulla was recaptured and they were driven to Uri.

Emergency Administration was set up in the Baramulla District under Sofi Mohd. Akbar as District Emergency Officer. At this juncture Government institutions in this district had collapsed. Both high and low officials had taken to their heel. General unrest and uneasiness prevailed. People were in a state of complete harassment.

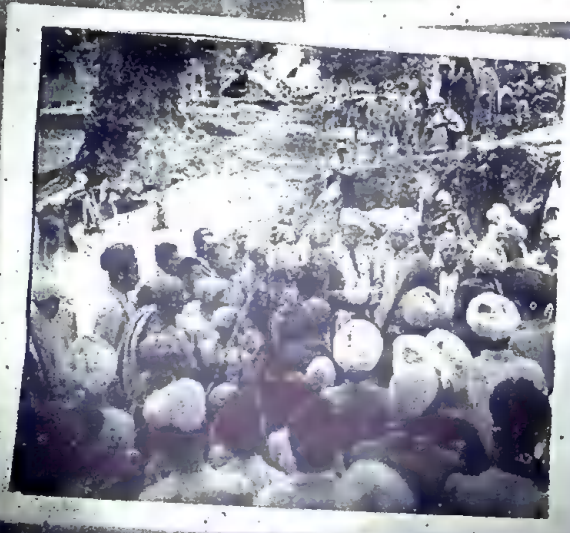
In absence of a regular Government, National Conference workers under the guidance and supervision of Sofi Mohd. Akbar came into the field. They worked day and night with unstinted zeal to restore confidence in the people who had suffered badly at the hands of Pakistani marauders. Emergency Committees were set up in every Town and *illaqa*. These Committees had under them a number of sub-Committees. They did all work that was of emergency nature and needed immediate attention.

The most pressing thing that was to be done in the first instance was to gather the refugees who were scattered all over the district. Workers with the help of volunteers went round each town and village and gathered the refugees — children and women — from the places of their shelter and refuge and brought them to the Refugee Camps, which were set up at Baramulla and Sopore and other places. Adequate arrangements for their feeding, clothing, housing, etc., were made. Medical aid too was efficiently arranged.

It will not be amiss to mention here that the local Muslims gave shelter and refuge to hundreds of Hindus and Sikhs in their humble cottages even at the risk of their own lives during the raids. Instances are numerous where Hindus and Sikhs were hid in Mosques

Baramulla in ruins. The raiders sacked this predominantly and prosperous Muslim town.

This is what gift Pakistan sent to Kashmiris.



Baramulla re-captured, Sheikh Abdullah meets the inhabitants who relate woeful stories of torture which they faced during occupation of the town by raiders.

and holy shrines from the raiders. Just one such instance is cited. In village Chogal, Tehsil Handwara, 395 Sikhs of Budra village had taken refuge in the neighbouring forest. They had no food, etc., with them. The Muslim villagers of the said village, in spite of danger and harassment, regularly supplied them with necessaries of life for more than 20 days.

Side by side, recovery of the looted property was made by the Emergency Committees. The locals offered back voluntarily whatever was lying in their possession. The recovered property was collected and returned to the lawful owners. The property thus recovered was worth lacs and included precious articles like gold and silver. In this way, in absence of a regular Government, the National Conference workers carried out the duties entrusted to them with devotion, efficiency and selflessness. In this way confidence and order was restored in the district.

Government officials were also persuaded to join their duties. Those of them who had undergone loss were given special concessions. Those who had stuck to their duties and had saved Government property were favoured with special promotions.

Amidst this chaos no important activity was overlooked.

In the Baramulla District, military operations against the enemy were continuously conducted at some place or the other. National Conference workers efficiently and zealously made arrangements for accommodation and other requirements of the military; and some workers accompanied the military to fronts guiding and acquainting them about the local conditions. The reciprocal behaviour and attitude of the Indian Military Officers and soldiers was highly appreciated; while they advanced they treated the general public with courtesy and consideration. They patted them and tried to remove fear and harassment from their minds. They were often moved by pity on seeing the lot of the poor Kashmiris and helped them with salt and sugar, which was scarce in those days. This they did by curtailing their own rations.

By and by the ground was prepared for regular Government to replace the Emergency Administration.

URI.

In this account of the work done by the Emergency Administration in Uri for a period of five months mention must first be made of the close co-operation and help rendered to the Indian Army by the Emergency Administration operating in this area.

Soon after the recapture of Uri, some trouble was caused by certain misguided civilians, who, having suffered at the hands of the raiders, wanted somewhat inaptly to take revenge on the local inhabitants. The energies of the Emergency Administration were, therefore, at first diverted towards this unhappy development. Normal conditions were restored within the short space of a few days when the miscreants were arrested and tried. The panic-scared population was resettled.

The next job done by the administration was the recovery of large quantities of looted property. Property worth about Rs. 50,000 was recovered. It will be interesting to mention here that a great deal of valuable property had been brought by the raiders from Gulmarg over high hills and on retreat some of this had been left in the Buniyar Nullah wherefrom it was recovered.

A Sikh girl who had been kidnapped during the raids was recovered from a far off place, Trikanjan, situated in the Buniyar Nullah. The abductor and his accomplices were traced and arrested.

One of the most stupendous jobs done was the construction of the Namla Bridge diversion. Coolies to the extent of 1,000 per day were arranged and the Indian Army Sappers and Miners, with the close co-operation and active support of the State Public Works Department completed the job in a few days. This work was done in the most trying conditions and at great risk.

It must be stated to the credit of the Public Works Department staff that the main road was kept in an exceptionally good state even though it was very roughly used.

The local Police organized by the Emergency Administration did not lag behind. It worked side by side with the Army and in certain cases the army attacks were preceded by Police reconnaissance. Some of the notable jobs done by the Police are the guarding of various inlets into the *illaqa*, recovery of looted property and intelligence work. Special mention must in this case be made of the Police party which succeeded in recovering a light machine-gun from a far off village in Uri.

The Uri Police was also instrumental in the arrest of the Pakistani soldier, Mohammad Latif. This man was later on handed over to the Indian Army.

Specific mention must be made of certain civilians who were of invaluable help to the civil administration and the army. It was due for instance, to the unstinted co-operation and help rendered by Raja Mohd. Afzal Khan, a local Jagirdar, that the construction of the Namla Bridge Diversion could be completed with success.

One Khaira Pode risked his life in saving rifles belonging to the Uri Police from the hands of the raiders, when they attacked Namla village in mid-winter.

Revenue was collected from the villages although the enemy was active on all sides and trying to encircle Uri. In this connection special credit must go to the local Numberdars who effected this collection at great risk to their lives.

The administration in general was all along employed in procuring labour, arranging supply of food stuffs like eggs, chickens, *ghee*, milk etc., at reasonable rates for the army and organizing intelligence work. This seemingly might appear a small task but when viewed from its significance it will turn out to be a very creditable and important job.

The Indian Army on its part deserves a place in this short report. It behaved in the most examplary manner and one cannot but praise the admirable sense of discipline exhibited by these men. Special place of honour must necessarily go to the subalterns and lower rank soldiers whose treatment of the local civilians and officials proved that the army is the best symbol of India's democratic spirit.

National Conference Committees were organized in every liberated area and red flags fluttered everywhere.

PART III.

Emergency Administration in Jammu.

GOODWILL MISSION.

Sher-i-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, ordered that a Goodwill Mission consisting of the following :—

S. Budh Singh Ji (Chairman).

Sh. Mohd. Amin.

Pt. Sheo Narain.

L. Gopal Datt Mengi.

Sh. Abdul Hamid.

Pt. Prem Nath Dogra.

Mr. Dina Nath Saraf (Secretary).

should tour the province of Jammu to restore peace and communal harmony in that province still reeling under the wounds of communal carnage of October.

On 16th November the Chairman and members of the Mission then present at Srinagar—S. Budh Singh Ji, Pt. Sheo Narain Fotedar, Sh. Mohd. Amin, accompanied by Sheikh Sahib, Bakshi Sahib and Pt. Kilam, went to Jammu by a plane. Sheikh Sahib addressed a meeting of leading Hindus and Muslims of the city in the Guest-house, where the Mission was accommodated, and made them to realize what shameful acts had been done in the Jammu Province in communal frenzy and asked them to unite for the defence of the country against the enemy. S. Budh Singh Ji, Pt. Sheo Narain Fotedar and Pt. Kilam met selected groups of Hindus and Muslims next day with a view to clear their mutual doubts. Bakshi Sahib visited the so-called refugee camps of the time. A large public meeting was addressed by Sher-i-Kashmir in the evening. People were asked to give up hatred and live like brothers and to fight the enemy. It was a very successful meeting. At the conclusion of his speech, Sheikh Sahib appealed to the people to contribute as much as they could for the relief of their brethren in distress. About Rs. 10,000 were collected on spot. Before leaving for Srinagar it

was considered necessary by Sheikh Sahib to instal an Emergency Administration in Jammu. On the 20th November Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad was appointed as Chief Emergency Officer, Jammu Province, to deal with all matters relating to law and order, supplies, transport, communications, public health, etc.

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REFUGEE RELIEF.

The iron hand of Bakshi Sahib soon tightened up the loose screws of the administration at Jammu. As the old administration had collapsed, Pt. Girdhari Lal Dogra was appointed Emergency Officer, Kathua, R. B. Brinda Ban, Special Magistrate Udhampur, and Th. Kartar Singh, Special Magistrate, Akhnur.

A very large number of people had been uprooted from their homes due to the fall of Rajouri and Kotli *illaqas* and attacks on the border. Nearly a thousand Muslims had also collected in Jammu having left their villages following outbreaks of communal disturbances. The population of Jammu city, which in normal times never exceeds 55,000, had swollen to over 2,00,000. To accommodate these refugees all Government buildings and many private buildings, which could be commandeered, were utilized and 50 camps opened. Each camp was placed under a Camp Officer. A Chief Refugee Camp Officer and Chief Camp Organizer were appointed to look after all the camps. Refugee camps were also established at Akhnur, Jaurian, Reasi, Katra, Udhampur and Domana. Three camps one in Mohalla Ustad and the other at Talab Khatikan in the Jammu city and the third in Udhampur, were opened for Muslim refugees. Committees were set up for collection of funds for relief and for its distribution. Blankets, quilts and clothing were procured and distributed among the refugees. Sanitation of the city and of the refugee camps was well looked after.

Side by side, with the rehabilitation of refugees, restoration of abducted women and girls was also undertaken. A fairly large number of women and girls was restored in Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua and Jammu Districts. Arrangements were made for the recovery of the looted property.

Refugees from outside the State also had collected in Jammu

in thousands, following the disturbances in the Punjab. They were evacuated to Pathankot in regular batches—1,600 of them were sent in 67 vehicles on 21st November alone.

PEACE BRIGADES.

Attacks from Pakistani raiders on our borders were increasing both in frequency and intensity. Bakshi Sahib began inspections on spot and had regular discussions of the situation with the Military authorities. An increasing number of young men was recruited as Border Defence Scouts under the control of Col. Baldev Singh Samyal. Peace Brigades and a corps of lady volunteers were raised to remove panic and build up the morale of the people. They regularly paraded in the city raising national slogans like, "*Sher-i-Kashmir Ka Kya Irshad — Hindu-Muslim-Sikh Itihad. Yeh Mulk Hamara Hai; Is Ki Hifazat Ham Karenge.*" The members of the Peace Brigades performed many other duties such as guarding of bridges, looking after refugee camps, etc.

TRANSPORT, COMMUNAL UNITY, ETC.

Transport was also one of the big problems. Bakshi Sahib lost no time in organizing it. An office of the Supplies Department was also organized along with the Transport Office for prompt movement of supplies. Lorries were made available for essential duties.

Bakshi Sahib did not handle the situation in the city alone. Now with the Military, now with the Home Guards, now with the workers of the National Conference, now attending to complaints of the poor people, he was running in the various towns and villages on the borders of the Jammu Province as also in the interior. Wherever he went, he was welcomed by the people as their saviour.

Bakshi Sahib did not want the clerks and baboos to work only on their tables. On the 29th November, he addressed a meeting of all the Government employees present at Jammu calling upon them to volunteer themselves for all sorts of emergent duties. There was a good response to this and on the next day a number of them went to work on roads with spades and pickaxes in their hands.

Attention was not lost to the internal disorder and lack of trust among communities which still existed in some parts of the Province. On the 30th November, S. Budh Singh Ji and Pt. Sheo Narain Fotedar were sent to Udhampur-Batote side to create goodwill among the people there and also to study the situation as contradictory reports were being received from Hindus and Muslims of the *illaqa*. Later, Goodwill Missions were also sent to Reasi, Ramnagar and Basohli sides, which brought good results.

Having acquitted himself with great distinction as Chief Emergency Officer, Bakshi Sahib was appointed as Deputy Head of Administration and Col. Baldev Singh Pathania succeeded him as Chief Emergency Officer, Jammu.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN.

Under his order dated January 12, 1948, Hon'ble Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Officiating Head of Administration (now Hon'ble Home and Deputy Prime Minister) placed Mr. G. R. Thappa a Senior Officer of the Kashmir Police Service on special duty for the recovery of abducted women and looted property in the Jammu Province. To begin with, a special staff consisting of one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, two Head-Constables, and ten Constables, was placed at the disposal of Mr. Thappa. This was later on supplemented by one Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable and ten Constables.

Mr. Thappa realising the task to be too stupendous and difficult of achievement without active public co-operation, issued an appeal to the general public over the Radio, Jammu immediately after his appointment, inviting their wholehearted co-operation and unstinted support in the humanitarian task entrusted to him by the Government. He also made it clear in his appeal that no action would be taken against persons who voluntarily surrendered abducted women and looted property. Mr. Thappa instructed the Special Staff to bring moral pressure to bear on the general public by personal contacts with influential and law abiding persons in the rural areas, and also by enlisting the support of local Revenue and Police and village officials.

The special staff operated in the Tehsils of Jammu, Akhnur, Reasi, Ranbirsinghpura, Samba, and parts of Kathua and Hiranagar. Majority of abducted women and children in these areas was rescued, although it was believed that there were still quite a few in unknown hands who were holding them back as long as they could. The special staff was, however, determined not to sit still until every single abducted woman was rescued. As a result of their ceaseless efforts, the total number of women and children recovered by the

Special Staff during the period from January 12, 1948 to April 25, 1948 was 608 — 524 women and 84 children.

There was another organization, namely: the Kashmir National Guards, which was carrying on rescue work independently of the special staff. The number of women and children rescued by them was in addition to those rescued by the special staff.

The response from the public for help and co-operation was admirable. The willing co-operation and assistance rendered from time to time by Miss Shanta Kumari, General Secretary of the Women Section of the National Conference, Jammu, and her keen and zealous band of social workers, who occasionally accompanied the special staff on rescue work to different villages, is deserving of special mention.

DEFENCE.

Due to the gravity of the situation on the borders a Corps entitled, "Border Defence Scouts Battalions" was officially raised on the 15th December, 1947, though a band of young lads was already operating on the border for the same cause, from November, 1947. These Battalions were raised in (1) Basohli, (2) Kathua, (3) Jasmergarh, (4) Samba, (5) Jammu, (6) Ranbirsinghpura, (7) Akhnur, (8) Reasi, (9) Poonch, (10) Nowshera, (11) Choaki Chaora and (12) Chhamb, and were made responsible for the protection of the border-line in their respective areas. They were divided into companies, platoons and sections for easy administration and discipline. The work entrusted to them was to (a) form a second line of defence and cover the gaps between military posts, (b) organize patrolling and give information of enemy movement to the troops, (c) act as guides to the troops including assistance to the troops in night patrolling and (d) organize military training of the civil population at selected centres with the help of Military Commanders. The total strength of the force was 4,803. The members of this force were on no account to attack adjoining territories. In case of attack from outside, they were to defend the villages situated within the boundary of the State and not cross the boundary line.

The Scouts performed their duties efficiently and with excellent discipline. They fought for the defence of their motherland like true sons of the country. They had no arms, money, food or equipment, yet they stood on the border for full five months in biting cold — the only shelter in some cases being paddy *bhoosa* sacks — and faced several encounters of the enemy.

The casualties suffered by the Border Scout Battalions were 36 — 28 killed, 7 wounded and one missing.